the electrification of the remaining parts of the rural areas; and

(e) what is the time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per available information, 22 villages were electrified in Darjeeling District during the last three years.

(c) As on 31.03.1994, about 23 per cent of the total inhabited villages remain to be electrified in Darjeeling District.

(d) Rural Electrification is a continuing process and funds for the programme are allocated by the Planning Commission for the State as a whole. The district-wise priority is decided by the State Government within the overall allocation for the State, on year to year basis. For the year 1994-95, the Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 24.50 crores for Rural Electrification works in West Bengal, including for electrification of 462 villages.

(e) Electrification of the remaining villages in the Darjeeling District will depend on the allocations to be made by the State Government for the programme in the district in the coming years, within the overall allocation approved by the Planning Commission for the State as a whole.

MOU between NHPC and MOH Mac Donald Ltd.

6541. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Hydro Electric Power Corporation (NHPC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MOH Mac Donald Ltd. (MML) of U.K.;

(b) if so, the fields in which both the firms have agreed to collaborate, together with the details of Memorandum of Understanding; and

(c) the extent to which the pact will be useful for India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) The National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with M/s Mott Mac Donals Ltd. (MML) of U.K. to mutually collaborate for providing consultancy and management services for execution of hydra power plants and associated structures in India and other countries. Specific agreements for cooperation will however be signed on case to case basis depending on the nature of the job.

(c) The association of NHPC with the U.K. firm is expected to be useful to India in view of the expertise/exposure to the State of the Art Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) technology for construction of large diameter long tunnels for future hydro-electric project.

छोटी-छोटी जल विद्युत परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी दिया जाना

6542. श्री गोविन्दराव आदिकः क्या विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

(क) क्या सरकार ने छोटी-छोटी जल विद्युत परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी देने के बारे में कोई निर्णय लिया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उन परियोजनाओं का राज्यवार ब्यौरा क्या है जिन्हें सरकार मंजूरी प्रदान करने का विचार रखती है;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि मेगा परियोजनाओं के निर्माण में वर्षों लग जाते हैं और पारेषण (ट्रांसमिशन) लाइनों पर भी बहुत खर्च आता है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार सम्बन्धित क्षेत्रों में बिजली की मांग की बात को ध्यान में रखकर सभी जल विद्युत परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी देगी;

(ङ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(च) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

विद्युत मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी॰वी॰